Katie W.

“Albert Speer”

Albert Speer, Hitler’s personal architect, was a well-known figure in the Holocaust time period. He is best known for prolonging the war for at least a year and gave the Nazis more time with the mass murder of Jews, Russians, Gypsies, and others. He was born in Mannheim on March 19, 1905. Later on, he decided to become an architect and studied at Munich Institute of Technology and at the Berlin-Charlottenburg Institute. He then gained his architect license in 1927.

Speer soon became a member of the Nazi party. He was influenced by Hitler, who spoke at a Berlin rally in 1930 and officially joined the party in January of 1931. Speer impressed the Fuehrer with his talents and received personal assignments directly from the Fuehrer. Hitler then made Speer his personal architect in which they developed a special relationship where Hitler gave Speer freedom and complete allegiance.

In 1942, Speer was appointed as Minister of Armaments. During this time he considerably raised the production levels of the armaments. Additionally, he became the genius who kept the war machines functioning under the Allied blockade and bombardment. Then, a few years later in 1946, Speer was sentenced to twenty years in prison at the Nuremburg International Military Tribunal. He was found guilty for war crimes and crimes against humanity. While Speer was in prison, he wrote several books. *Erinnerugen, Inside the Third Reich,* and *Spandau: The Secret Diaries* are the books he wrote in prison. Once he was out of prison, he then published the books.

After the war ends, there is no longer a good relationship between Speer and Hitler. Speer begins to refuse orders directly from Hitler, which is not favorable for Hitler. Speer even said he had planned to assassinate Hitler, however, it said that he would not follow through with his plan. On September 1, 1981, Speer dies in London.

Based on the information I have learned over the course of research, Albert Speer has been an interesting person to find out about. I did not know that he was Hitler’s personal architect and that he became the genius who kept the German war machine functioning under the Allied blockade and bombardment. He was not the good guy in this because he was responsible for prolonging the war for at least a year, which gave the Nazis more time with the mass murdering. It was really interesting to learn about him, because now I know what role that he played in the Holocaust.